

"Deaderick-Taylor House"

5 Mi. N.E. Morristown-U.S. Highway 11-2
Hamblen County, Tennessee.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Tennessee.

Historic American Buildings Survey
J. Frazer Smith, District Officer
W. Jeter Eason-Deputy District Officer
404 Goodwyn Institute Building
Memphis, Tennessee.

"DEADERICK-TAYLOR HOUSE"

5 Mi. N.E. Morristown, U.S. Highway 11-E
Hamblen County, Tennessee.

Owner. An estate of which Mr. C. V. Taylor is
Executor, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Date of Erection. Before 1812.

Architect. Unknown.

Builder. Judge Charles Deaderick.

Present Condition. Comparatively speaking the house is in very good state of preservation. Just how long it has been since it was occupied is not known, but it appears that it must have been occupied up until comparatively few years ago. The chimney to the left end of the house has sunk somewhat and one corner of the service wing has dropped. Other than that the house could be reconditioned for a relatively small amount of money. It appears that all of the original out-buildings are still there for there are no evidences of any having been removed. One of the slave houses, the carriage house and one of the sheds are in bad state of preservation, but the slave office (the building in which sales of slaves were transacted) the cooks' house, the main barn and two other minor buildings are in good state of preservation. The above described constitute the building group immediately around the house. No information was gathered as to the condition of the slave houses not connected with the central group.

Number of Stories. The residence proper is two stories and part cellar with one story service "L" to the rear. All other buildings in the group are one story except the main barn which is two stories. There is also a one story section on the right end, but in the same plane as the front wall, which is not original being built it appears about 75 years ago for the purpose we are told of housing a mother-in-law.

Materials of Construction. Foundations of the house and most of the out-buildings are of native stone quarried in the vicinity, some of the out-buildings employ wood sills as foundations. The floors are hand hewn timber joists and sills and hand finished pine flooring carefully done even in the out-buildings. In one of the slave houses can be noticed the joists with bead molds

on all the exposed ceilings joists. This delicacy was carried out wherever ceiling or floor joists are exposed in all of the buildings except the barn. Interior trim: marble and wood and some ornamental plaster. All exterior and interior wood trim and all structural members in all cases are mitered and splined and joined with pegs, this being carried out even in the mullions and muntins of the windows which is one of the finest examples of tedious craftsmanship that we have surveyed. The exterior walls and the major interior walls of the residence are of solid brick. The out-buildings are of logs and in two instances logs with clapboard siding applied. In one of the slave houses where log construction is employed on the exterior walls the ceiling joists are molded. The woodwork construction in the cornices of the main house is of a very delicate treatment as can be seen by the photographs, and infinite care was taken in joining all woodwork as can also be seen by the photographs. The workmanship is still good, joints are tight and the wood sound. The metal roof which covers the major house and the service wing is of solid block tin with raised seams. This appears to be about 1/8 to 3/16 of an inch thick. The first impression is one of galvanized iron but closer inspection shows that it is not, that it is solid tin. This is the only example that we have ever seen where such expense in roofing has been indulged in. Hand split shingles were used on the roof of the out-buildings but most have been replaced with galvanized iron.

Other Existing Records. There do not appear to be any other records other than what might be in possession of the Estate. This survey so far as is known is its only publication.

Additional Data. The Deaderick Taylor house occupies a grand position and constitutes a terminus of a long boxwood avenue. Boxwoods originally began with the old Daniel Boone Trail, evidences of which still remain and extend from there to the house. This old trail has long since been abandoned and a new concrete highway was located north of the old trail so that the Southern Railway is between the old trail and the new road. The house was built at a tremendous expense in all probability despite the large amount of slave labor that must have been used. It was a matter of a very few years after the building of the house that

Mr. Frank W. Taylor acquired it. There seems to be some doubt as to whether or not the delicate woodwork was put in by its builder, Judge Deaderick, or whether it was put in by Mr. Taylor who bought it shortly thereafter.

Mr. Taylor was a gentleman of considerable means being the largest slave trader in that part of the country. Indications seem to show that while he was a gentleman of extreme wealth and power in his community he was also one to appreciate delicacy in architecture and in his personal things. There is an old carriage in the carriage house in remarkable state of preservation which was owned by Mr. Taylor. It is a very small thing, but elaborately carved and painted and decorated and it seems to indicate the daintiness of his appreciation.

Just whether or not this is pertinent to the survey is somewhat doubtful, but it is an interesting fact that the safe in which Mr. Taylor kept his money, jewels and important papers is still in the house and we are told has never been opened since his death. This safe, of course, is not of the combination lock type for it precedes that development, and, furthermore, the safe that was used by either his son or his grandson is still in the house and we are likewise told has never been opened. The latter safe has been drilled into at the lock, but on drilling it the lock was fouled, but the safe was not opened and neither has it been blown.

The house is at present unoccupied, but Mr. C. W. Furger who rents the land surrounding the house and who seems to have an interest in protecting it, but it is not his duty to keep it up, lives in a very nice little cottage near the house which was the cooks' quarters originally. He seems to have informed himself about the history of the house and it was from him that the above information was obtained, although most of the records of the family are inaccessible, they being in the safes, however, some records were not in the safe and it was from these that he obtained his information.

This house and group is an example of the luxurious living indulged in by the wealthy during the period of slavery. It could be restored and equipped with

modern mechanical conveniences and could again
house beautifully a family of wealth and social
position with all the dignity that it did in the
past.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. C. Parsons". The signature is written in dark ink and is located to the right of the main text block.

Rev. Aug. 25. '36, T.T.W.